

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A side member, which is a complement of a pair located on either side of the body of a vehicle so as to extend in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle body, passing under a dash panel located in the front part of the interior of the vehicle so as to cross the vehicle body, the side member comprising:

a front side member extending rearward from the front of the vehicle body, beyond a dash plane which extends along a vertical wall of the dash panel; and

a rear side member extending forward from the rear of the vehicle body beyond the dash plane and having a surface extending in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle and jointed to the front side member in an overlapping manner.

2. A side member according to claim 1, which further comprises a brace member one end side of which is jointed to the front side member and the other end side jointed to the vertical wall of the dash panel.

3. A side member according to claim 2, wherein the front side member is formed having a closed section in front of the dash panel, and a closed section is also formed between the brace member and the front side member in the vicinity of the dash panel.

4. A side member according to claim 2, wherein the front side member is formed of an inner member, having an upper front wall, a lower front wall, and

a front inside wall, and an outer member having a front outside wall, and the brace member is jointed to the front inside wall and an upper edge flange provided on the upper edge of a top outside wall extending upward from an upper flange on the outer member of the front side member.

5. A side member according to claim 1, wherein the front side member is formed of an inner member, having an upper front wall, a lower front wall, and a front inside wall, and an outer member having a front outside wall, and the front end of the rear side member penetrates an inside space surrounded by the inner member and the outer member.

6. A side member according to claim 5, wherein the front end of the rear side member is formed of a bottom wall, a rear inside wall, and a rear outside wall, the bottom wall being jointed to the lower front wall, the rear inside wall being jointed to the front inside wall, and the rear outside wall being jointed to the front outside wall.

7. A side member according to claim 6, wherein the rear side member comprises an upper member, having the bottom wall, rear inside wall, and rear outside wall and defining a closed section in cooperation with the dash panel, and a lower member covering the upper member from below.

8. A side member according to claim 7, wherein

the upper member penetrates the front side member to a position in front of the lower member.

9. A side member according to claim 7, wherein the lower member is provided with a lower upward flange on the outside edge thereof, the front end of the lower upward flange being interposed between the rear end of an inner upward flange on the outside edge of the upper front wall of the inner member and an outer upper flange on the upper side of the front outside wall of the outer member.

10. A side member according to claim 7, wherein the lower member extends outward from the rear outside wall of the upper member and is jointed to the outside end of the dash panel.

11. A side member according to claim 9, wherein the upper member has an upper outward flange on the upper edge of the rear outside wall, the front end of the upper outward flange being jointed to a rack portion provided between the lower upward flange and the upper end of a lower outside wall overlapping the rear outside wall.

12. A side member of an automobile, comprising a front side member passing under a dash plane, which extends along a vertical wall of a dash panel, from the front of the body of a vehicle and extending rearward, and a rear side member passing under the dash plane from the rear of the vehicle body and extending

forward, the front side member and the rear side member being jointed together so as to overlap each other in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle.